

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06834 01 OF 04 082106Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----082110Z 076682 /70

O 082052Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0395

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 06834

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR VN US
SUBJ: US-VN RELATIONS: PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO HANOI

REF: PARIS 6795

1. MEETING PREPARATORY TO PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION'S
VISIT TO HANOI TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED MARCH 8 IN
PARIS AT DCM GAMMON'S RESIDENCE.

2. VIETNAMESE REP TRAN HOAN OPENED WITH PREPARED
STATEMENT REVIEWING VANCE-TRINH CORRESPONDENCE AS
BACKGROUND FOR THIS MEETING DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE
UPCOMING COMMISSION'S VISIT TO HANOI. HOAN OUTLINED
HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF BEING READY TO DISCUSS
AND SETTLE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO
DISCUSS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE
PARIS AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE SRV IS PREPARED TO DO
SO WITH GOOD WILL IN REGARD TO THE MIA ISSUE AND OTHER
PROBLEMS OF US CONCERN. HE NOTED THAT THE US SIDE
SHOULD ALSO ADOPT THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD ITS
"CONTRIBUTION TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR" AND THE
"RECONSTRUCTION OF POST-WAR VIETNAM" AND OTHER PROBLEMS
OF CONCERN TO THE SRV.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 06834 01 OF 04 082106Z

3. HOAN THEN RAISED SEVERAL POINTS SPECIFICALLY
REGARDING THE COMMISSION'S VISIT AND TALKS IN HANOI,
AS FOLLOWS:

A) HE ASKED ABOUT TASKS AND MANDATE OF THE
COMMISSION, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE REAL

NEGOTIATING POWER OR WOULD BE EMPOWERED MERELY TO SOUND OUT VIETNAMESE AND STUDY PROBLEM. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN DOCUMENTS AS PLENIPOTENTIARY.

B) REGARDING PROGRAM AND AGENDA, HOAN ASKED WHAT THE US PROPOSED FOR THE AGENDA, THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH IT WISHED INSCRIBED ON IT, AND WHETHER THE US IS READY TO DISCUSS RECONSTRUCTION AID AT THE COMMISSION'S MEETINGS WITH SRV OFFICIALS.

C) HE THEN INQUIRED ABOUT HOW THE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE AFTER THE AGENDA HAD BEEN FIXED, I.E. IN WHAT ORDER THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS WOULD BE CONSIDERED, WHICH SIDE WOULD RAISE WHICH PROBLEM FIRST AND WHETHER TO PROCEED SERIATIM OR IN PARALLEL ON THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS, MIAS AND AID. HE ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE INTERESTED IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND SAID IT SEEMED TO THE VIETNAMESE THIS PROBLEM COULD BE RAISED AFTER THE DISCUSSION OF THE MIA/AID QUESTIONS.

D) ON OTHER TECHNICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS, HOAN ASKED WHAT THE COMMISSION HAD IN MIND FOR ITS OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES TALKS, I.E. DO THEY WISH TO CALL ON OTHER OFFICIALS, VISIT OTHER AREAS, HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE, ETC.

3. US REP GAMMON THEN GAVE PREPARED STATEMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 06834 01 OF 04 082106Z

DESCRIBING THE ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION. HE INDICATED COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WOODCOCK WOULD BE CARRYING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, WHICH HE WISHES TO DELIVER PERSONALLY. GAMMON NOTED THAT COMMISSION WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE MIA QUESTION AND WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE SRV OFFICIALS FOR THIS PURPOSE,

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06834 02 OF 04 082115Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----082117Z 076747 /70

O 082052Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0396

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 04 PARIS 06834

NODIS

INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED WITH SEARCHING FOR THE MIA. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE AND REPATRIATE ANY REMAINS AS WELL AS VISIT ANY GRAVE SITES AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TECHNICAL STAFF ON THE VISIT. IN ADDITION, HE REITERATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE SRV VIEWS ON OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING NORMALIZATION AND TO REPORT THEM DIRECTLY AND FAITHFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT UPON RETURN TO THE US.

4. US REP ROSENTHAL MADE BRIEF ADDITIONAL REMARKS TO EMPHASIZE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH STATURE OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSION AND US INTENTION TO PROCEED IN A MANNER WHICH REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF SINCERITY AND GOOD WILL WITH WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER IS SEEKING TO RESOLVE MIA ISSUE AND MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE IS ENCOURAGED SO FAR BY THE RESPONSE OF SRV GOVERNMENT.

5. ROSENTHAL THEN RAISED SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL ISSUES. HE GAVE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES IN HANOI. HE DESCRIBED PROBABLE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT ON WHICH COMMISSION WOULD BE ARRIVING AND ASKED WHETHER LANDING AND OTHER FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE. HE THEN DESCRIBED ENTIRE US

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 06834 02 OF 04 082115Z

DELEGATION INCLUDING COMMISSION AND STAFF MEMBERS, THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION, AND ASKED ABOUT DOCUMENTATION. HE SAID IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF SRV COULD PROVIDE INTERPRETERS FOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND OTHER SUITABLE OCCASIONS, EVEN THOUGH COMMISSION STAFF WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE VIETNAMESE-SPEAKING OFFICIAL. ROSENTHAL PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION VISIT TO INCLUDE MEETINGS IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17, WITH CALLS ON APPROPRIATE SRV OFFICIALS AND OTHER

ACTIVITIES MARCH 18. HE NOTED THAT COMMISSION WISHES TO MAKE ONLY THOSE SIDE TRIPS CONSISTENT WITH ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SEEKING MIA INFORMATION, BUT THAT INDIVIDUAL COMMISSION MEMBERS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER TRIPS IF TIME PERMITS.

6. ROSENTHAL ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE ONE OF COMMISSION'S PURPOSES IS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY ON RETURN TO US, IT WOULD PREFER NOT TO ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE OR A PRESS STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. HE PROPOSED INSTEAD SEPARATE PRESS STATEMENTS, WITH DISCUSSION IN ADVANCE ON THEIR GENERAL CONTENT. IN BOTH THIS MATTER AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DISCUSSED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, HOAN NODDED GENERAL AGREEMENT AND INDICATED HE WOULD REFER US PROPOSALS TO HANOI.

7. APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF-HOUR TEA BREAK FOLLOWED. GAMMON AND ROSENTHAL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE INFORMALLY WITH HOAN THE POSSIBILITY OF US PRESS GOING TO HANOI TO COVER THE COMMISSION'S VISIT. HOAN RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY RECEIVED SOME REQUESTS FROM US NEWSMEN BUT THAT THEIR FACILITIES FOR RECEIVING A LARGE NUMBER OF OUTSIDE PRESS WERE INADEQUATE. HE SAID THE SRV EMBASSY HERE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROPOSE TO HANOI THAT FOUR OR FIVE US NEWSMEN BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HANOI DURING THE VISIT, IF USG

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 06834 02 OF 04 082115Z

COULD PRESENT NAMES OF SUCH NEWSMEN TO THEM. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH SRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THARH, EMBOFF PRATT MADE SAME PITCH AND RECEIVED ESSENTIALLY SAME REPLY. US REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD REFER THIS PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON.

8. ON RESUMPTION OF FORMAL SESSION, GAMMON LEAD OFF WITH US POSITION THAT THE COMMISSION SAW NO NEED FOR A FORMAL AGENDA. THE COMMISSION WISHED TO DISCUSS THE POINTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THEM TO CONVEY AND WOULD BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO VIETNAMESE VIEWS AND REPORT THEM BACK TO THE PRESIDENT. THUS SRV WILL BE FREE TO RAISE ANY ISSUE IT WISHES AT ANY TIME. US THEREFORE BELIEVES AN OPEN AGENDA WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE AND PRODUCTIVE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

9. HOAN REPLIED THAT IF HE UNDERSTOOD, COMMISSION WOULD ONLY NOTE SRV POINT OF VIEW, AND HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW SRV COULD RAISE SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE TO IT FOR DISCUSSION. HE INDICATED AGENDA COULD BE DECIDED AT TIME OF ARRIVAL OF COMMISSION, AND THEN IT COULD BE

DETERMINED HOW TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF THE
US (MIAS) AND SRV (AID) AND HOW TO ENVISAGE THE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06834 03 OF 04 082115Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----082119Z 076768 /70

O 082052Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0397

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 04 PARIS 06834

NODIS

CONVERSATIONS MIGHT PROCEED. HE ASKED WHETHER THEY
COULD BE DISCUSSED IN PARALLEL, TO WHICH US REPS
REPLIED THAT COMMISSION WOULD PARTICIPATE IN TALKS AS
UNIFIED BODY AND PARALLEL TALKS DID NOT SEEM FEASIBLE.
HOAN ASKED WHETHER ONE CAN EXPECT ANY AGREEMENT COULD
BE REACHED BY THE COMMISSION OR WHETHER THE COMMISSION
MUST REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. GAMMON REPLIED THAT THE
COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD LISTEN TO ALL SUBJECTS, WOULD
REPORT DIRECTLY AND FAITHFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT.
ROSENTHAL FOLLOWED BY REITERATING THAT PRESIDENT WILL
TAKE COMMISSION'S VIEWS AND RESULTS OF TRIP INTO SERIOUS
ACCOUNT.

10. HN SAID HE THEREFORE GATHERED THAT THE TASK OF
THE COMMISSION WAS TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF THE MIA, TO
LISTEN TO PRINCIPAL SRV CONCERN (I.E. AID) AND TO ITS
OTHER VIEWS AND TO PRESENT THEM TO THE PRESIDENT WITH
ANY ADVICE IT CONSIDERS SUITABLE. IT WOULD BE ON THE
BASIS OF THIS REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD THEN
CONSIDER ANY FURTHER ACTIONS. HE SAID THE VIETNAMESE
SIDE WILL STUDY AND RESOLVE WITH GOOD WILL THE PROBLEMS
OF THE MIA WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO THE US AND HOPED FOR
A SIMILAR ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE US. IF THE TWO
SIDES SHOW GOOD WILL AND MAKE COMMON EFFORTS, RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL IMPROVE. HOWEVER, IF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 06834 03 OF 04 082115Z

THERE IS NO DESIRE ON THE PART OF ONE SIDE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE OTHER SIDE, GOOD INTENTIONS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT. HE SAID SRV UNDERSTANDS THE WISH OF THE USG TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ON THE MIAS ON THE SPOT AND TO VISIT GRAVESITES. HE REPEATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SIDE IS READY TO STUDY AND RESOLVE WITH GOOD WILL THE PROBLEM OF THE MIAS.

11. HOAN SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF THE AGENDA SEEMED CLEAR AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON THE SPOT ON THE CONTENT AND PROCEDURE OF THE CONVERSATIONS. IF THE US SIDE HAD ANY LATER VIEWS ON SUBJECTS IT WISHED TO RAISE, WE COULD INFORM THE SRV.

12. ROSENTHAL NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, HE WISHED TO REITERATE THE COMMISSION'S PURPOSE AGAIN. NOMINATION OF THE COMMISSION REPRESENTS THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT OVER MIAS AND HIS INTEREST IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS TO THE SRV, TO RECEIVE MIA INFORMATION AND REMAINS AND TO LISTEN TO SRV VIEWS AND REPORT THEM BACK TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. ROSENTHAL ADDED THAT COMMISSION WOULD PROBABLY COMMENT ON SRV VIEWS TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN ORDER TO ASSURE FULLY ACCURATE REPORTING BACK TO PRESIDENT.

13. HOAN HANDED OVER TO GAMMON THE LIST OF VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE HOLDING TALKS WITH COMMISSION IN HANOI:

PHAN HIEN, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
(CHIEF OF DELEGATION);

VO DONG GIANG, ASSISTANT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR;

NGUYEN XUAN, AMBASSADOR;

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 06834 03 OF 04 082115Z

NGUYEN QUANG TAO, AMBASSADOR;

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06834 04 OF 04 082121Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----082124Z 076864 /70

O 082052Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0398

S E C R E T SECTION 04 OF 04 PARIS 06834

NODIS

TRAN QUANG CO, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
MRS. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

14. AT THIS POINT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT VARIOUS
TECHNICAL PROBLEMS NOT RESOLVED THIS DAY WOULD BE
HANDLED BY LIAISON OFFICERS AT RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN
PARIS. HOAN RAN THROUGH A LIST OF TECHNICAL MATTERS
ON WHICH THEY WOULD APPRECIATE A US RESPONSE. HE NOTED
SRV TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS AND SAID THEY WOULD BE
PREPARED NONETHELESS TO SEND OUR ENCRYPTED MESSAGES
VIA COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH IF THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO US.
IN ADDITION TO MEETING PHAM VAN DONG TO PRESENT LETTER,
WOULD THERE BE ANYONE ELSE WHOM COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY
WISHED TO SEE? HE ALSO ASKED IF THERE ARE ANY
HISTORICAL SITES OR ANYTHING ELSE THE INDIVIDUAL
COMMISSIONERS WISHED TO SEE, SINCE HE NOTED THAT THIS
WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT MOST WERE VISITING VIETNAM.
HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE COMMISSION WOULD WISH TO HOLD
A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HANOI. ROSENTHAL SAID HE WOULD
REFER THESE MATTERS TO THE COMMISSION AND WOULD SEND
REPLY THROUGH LIAISON OFFICER.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 06834 04 OF 04 082121Z

15. HOAN REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID AT THE BREAK
ABOUT US PRESS GOING TO HANOI. HE SAID THAT IF THE
US EMBASSY HERE WOULD MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR PERHAPS FIVE

NEWSMEN, THEY WOULD CONSIDER PASSING IT ON TO HANOI.

16. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT BY TRAN HOAN THAT THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM WOULD BE DECIDED ON THE COMMISSION'S ARRIVAL IN HANOI. HE ASSURED US REPS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD RECEIVE EXCELLENT TREATMENT DURING ITS VISIT AND WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED.

17. US REPS THANKED HIM FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF WELCOME, WOULD CONVEY IT TO THE COMMISSION, AND INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS INDEED LOOKING FORWARD TO ITS VISIT.
RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, COMMITTEES, VISITS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS06834
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-2003, N770001-0784
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770382/aaaacuig.tel
Line Count: 399
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 762cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 PARIS 6795
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3177105
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/VN RELATIONS: PREPARATORY MEETING FOR PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO HANOI
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/762cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009